

Hawaiian Gazette.

SEMI-WEEKLY.

ISSUED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

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A TOURIST'S LETTER.

The letter from a "Tourist" published elsewhere, shows the interest taken in us by the people in the Fatherland. Charmed as he is, with the soil, and air, and hospitality, he naturally infers that pretty much everything is charming here, or ought to be, and he suggests that the interesting details of our social and political evolution, should be more widely published in the States. He refers to the deep interest formerly taken in us, by the "good people" of the United States, and observes that now "the first and only colony is almost without human interest to the parent country." He justly comments on the singular honesty and intelligence in the administration of public affairs, and believes it is equal to that of any community in the States. He notices the gradual improvement in the contract system of labor. But he is rather surprised that we do not make known to our American friends, the interesting details of our curious social and political evolution.

"Tourist" makes a score of points which cover broad ground. Since 1820, there have been two periods of Hawaiian history. The first covered mainly the contact of the missionary with the native. It was regarded by the people of New England, and of some other States as the most successful gospel work of the early part of the century. Its history even fascinated the children. In 1843, the dominance of the American Mission, voluntarily ended, and for reasons which need not now be given, there was after that a tendency on the part of the natives to revert to heathenism. The Roman Catholic Church made great advances, and now embraces a majority of them. But the story is no longer fascinating or romantic to the New Englander.

The Industrial period began, after the passage of the Reciprocity treaty. The planters, and the foreign community behind them, grappled with the difficult problems of sugar making. Instead of relying upon the limited and uncertain native labor, they made the perilous venture of developing the sugar industry with great energy, and began the importation of alien laborers of three or more races, without taking into account the fact that a human being is a "unit" in any political system, and sooner or later the "units" fall into line and make startling figures. There is a marvellous development of the industrial period. But its history, like the history of nearly all commercial and industrial developments, has its hard side. Trade looks steadily at the North Star of the dollar, not towards the East, to the sign of the Cross. As it is elsewhere, so it is here. The true history of the industrial period, up to the present, should be full of rich material for the political student, but it will not interest the general reader.

Nor will the general reader be interested in that uneventful history of our independent judiciary, which has been our chief mainstay, and the rock against which the waves of popular ignorance have broken and died. Here the political students will find curious and valuable material.

The last census is a chart showing the shoals we are in. It is also full of interrogation points; of very ugly questions regarding our own patriotism. We do not wish them asked, but the people of the United States are asking them, like the

annoying attorneys who delight in "cross-examinations."

The really interesting part of our social and industrial development, "Tourist" will see, covers the relations of many "inharmionious" races, who have, so far, dwelt together in general peace, and, under certain conditions will continue to do so. The story about the points of contact, would make, as Horace Greely said, "mighty interesting reading" for the political student. But the fascinating story of the early days, whether true or partially true, the story that commanded the love and support of Americans from the Senate to the cabin is ended. And the other story—is not yet told. Here then, is the reason why "the first and only colony is almost without human interest to the parent country."

AN "EXCLUSION" FARCE.

The American Congress, during the last Winter's session, passed an immigration law, which President Cleveland vetoed. It provided, among other things, that Canadian laborers should not be allowed to enter the United States, under certain conditions. It struck at the many Canadian farmers living near the border line, who live at home and work, during the Summer months in the States. Congress believed that it did a clever thing. It did not want any "brotherhood of man" principles, but simply "business principles" to infest the long strip of border land. The proposed law would have made great distress among thousands of honest laborers, if that unhappy victim of remorse, President Cleveland, had not had the wisdom to veto it.

Suddenly the marvelous gold fields of Klondyke are discovered on Canadian territory. The Canadians too have an immigration law. But Brother Jonathan wants to get at the gold. He softens at once towards the Canadian. He politely calls on him, puts his hat on the floor, wipes his brow, asks his Canadian neighbor if he and his family are to be well, and proceeds, "I guess I was a little previous in hating that air immigration bill through Congress. I didn't mean no harm, but them boys called the Labor Unions kinder hustled me too fast. I don't take much stock in that Cleveland feller, but I guess he was about right in stoppin' that law. I haint always as I mighten to be. Hope will be neighborly, and not bother the boys when they run over and scratch for a little gold on your farm. Times is sort of hard."

And the Canadian in a friendly sort of British way replies, "Come over neighbor and bring the boys. I know you wanted to help yourself by making many thousands of my poor neighbors poorer than they are. You wanted to build up a Chinese wall and divide off the Anglo-Saxon race on this continent. The 'fat prophet' as the N. Y. Sun calls him, stopped you. It is all right. Bring the boys over."

Uncle Sammy puts on his hat, shakes hands, walks out very meekly, and whispers to himself, "I came near being left in that deal."

The moral of it is, as Bre'r Rabbit said to Bre'r Fox, "before you build up a high fence, look over and see if there are any fat chickens in your neighbor's roost."

A CURE FOR DROUTH.

Dr. Harris, National Commissioner of Education, in Washington, D. C., recently showed to us, the translation of a decree issued by an Alcalde in San Salvador, which was secured by a correspondent of the Smithsonian. It may interest the people of Hawaii, whose crops are suffering from the drouth. The proclamation shows that the ignorant Spanish authorities in some parts of South America, and the Chinese take the same

curious views regarding the relations of man to the supernatural world, and the power of man to control events.

We abbreviate some portions of the decree:

Whereas, There has been no rain in this province of Caciquas for over two years, and "the Supreme Creator has been behaving badly towards our people," we now decree:

1st. That if no rain falls within eight days, no one will be permitted to go to mass.

2d. If no rain falls within eight days after that time, the furniture of the churches shall be broken up.

3rd. If no rain falls within eight days after that, some of the priests and nuns will be beheaded.

4th. Until rain falls, no one shall be punished for any crime.

We do this "in order to show the Supreme Creator what sort of people he is dealing with."

Abundant rain fell within four days, and the faith of the ignorant people in the power of the Alcalde is now unlimited.

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE?

"Not only the inevitable, but the best power this side of the ocean is the unfettered common sense of the masses. Institutions, as we are accustomed to call them, are but paste-board and intended to be, against the thought of the street. Statutes are mere mile-stones, telling how far yesterday's thought had traveled; and the talk of the sidewalk of today is the law of the land. You may regret this; but the fact stands, and if our fathers foresaw the full effect of their principles, they must have planned and expected it. With us, law is nothing, unless behind it stands a warm, living public opinion. Let that die or grow indifferent, and statutes are waste paper, lack all executive force. You may frame them, as strong as language can make them; but once change public feeling, and through them or over them ride the real wishes of the people. The good sense and conscience of the masses are our only title-deeds and police force."

These are the words of a great American orator, who predicted the fall of Slavery and was laughed at for it. The South, secure in the control of the government, smiled and defied him. The Northern Democracy with business interests behind it, the old Whig party now the Republican party, said, "what ravings, what an impracticable man." He, standing on the hill top, saw the silent gathering of the "masses," and the bayonet glittering among the wheat blades.

Who then make up the "masses," in any State or community? Are they the selected few, who by superior energy, contrivance or even force, manage to rule? Not in a democracy, for its pendulum of opinion swings from the perfect man if there is one, to the most ignorant. In America the most depraved, ignorant, fetish worshipping negro, living like a muskrat on the banks of the Mississippi, makes up, in common with President McKinley or John W. Foster the "mass" of American citizenship.

What statesman here, during the last thirty years, believing in this simple axiom of wisdom, proclaimed the truth that here, the masses, however made up, must in the end, rule the country? That in the end, nationality or color or religion do not count, and that "limitations" and "expedients" and "provisions" must, in the long run, even though it be a century, go down before the masses? Did he foresee that the immigrants of every nationality bound by contract labor, would be the law makers of the future?

The Present, looking only for gain, sees peace and prosperity and is contented. The old farmer, watching his mill dam, and the peaceful pent up waters said, "there is no danger, it has stood for years." But the water had, for a quarter of a century, been sending out its rills, like silk threads, through the crevices, and these piloted the great volume through the barrier, and it gave way. The farm "changed hands."

The "masses" here, like the peaceful pond, quietly and unconsciously sends our little rills of political thought through the crevices

of the barriers, and contrivances, which the "superior race" has constructed to keep them back. In the end, the obstructions or contrivances fail, and the masses break the barrier. That is, they then rule. Who are the "masses" here? It is a curious question.

LAW REPORTS.

The Justices of the Supreme Court have sent as it is stated elsewhere, a number of the volumes of the Hawaiian Reports to the Court and Bar libraries of the States, and they are received with favor. The common law applied to, as grafted on the unwritten Polynesian law, by our Courts, excites great interest among law students. Whenever these Islands become a part of the States, the decisions contained in these reports will have the same value and the same authority as the decisions of the State and Territorial Courts. The laymen never appreciate the value of complete law libraries, and the judges and lawyers usually make a hard fight for appropriations. If R. L. Stevenson wrote law books, and compiled Reports, the laymen would read them, for as he has himself said, "the most influential, and the truest in their influence, are works of fiction." But the dry stuff, called "Reports" are only romantic, and entrancing to that singular class of serious, and self denying men that Providence has kindly drafted off from the rest of the community, and labelled, "Attorneys and Counsellors at Law."

Indirectly the laymen get the benefits of a good library, and therefore should generously sustain it, through the Legislature.

MORE THINKING WANTED.

When a man accepts office, he agrees to stand out in the light, and expose his weakness, as well as his strength. But it is a part of his contract with the public that he shall be fairly and honestly treated. The miserable, cruel and even malicious slandering of public men keeps some of the best moral and mental power out of public life. The community suffers from its own "cussedness."

At the same time free, and even strong criticism of officials, is the safeguard of democratic Government. If an official doesn't like it, he has no business to hold office. He is the agent of the people, and only puts on lordly and foolish airs, if he can't take the tonic of wholesome discussion. He has no business to take a position when his "feelings are hurt." He does not pay for the damage done by his unwise acts. The people behind him foot the bills.

We say this in advance of our criticism on the general work of the members of the Cabinet. These men are, in our opinion, doing altogether too much detail work, and not enough of that higher and more exacting brain work, which is the crying need of these transition days. The Republic suffers from it. The Attorney General, overworked for four years, still has the details of the Health department to attend to. The Minister of Foreign Affairs attends to many numerous details of the Educational department. The other Ministers are more or less involved in administrative detail.

Our political condition involves us in complicated relations with the United States. We have been, for some years, on the eve of complications with Japan, and now we are in them. We have had to deal with the most embarrassing question of labor. It concerned our internal affairs, and went to the existence of civilization here. It concerned our relations with America, and seriously touched the question of reciprocity and political union.

These questions, numerous, intricate and even dangerous, called for the best "thinking," the best study. We had no men trained on these

lines of thought. If one thinks that no training is needed, let him read Senator Hoar's recent address in the Clarke University, on the great need of men educated carefully in the science of politics and diplomacy. Thrown back on our "home talent" we must do the best we can with it. Deficiencies in experience and long training are only made up by the closest study.

Our arrangement of official work has resulted in depriving these men of the time needed for thought and study, and driven them into detailed work. No one denies the high order of that work. It is admirable. But the State loses by it in the grand totals, and in the neglect of more vital work.

The Ministers themselves, will, on Sundays, admit that they are "miserable worms of the dust" worthy only to be snapped up by passing mynah birds, but they are just a little prone, on week days, to abandon this delightful theory of humility and recent criticism.

For instance, the question of the registration of foreign built ships, has been discussed for three years. The statute permitting it is, probably, mandatory. This statute, during the session of the last Legislature, could have been repealed or modified in a day. It was not done, and the "China" case is here to embarrass us. It was the business of course of the law makers to change the law. But the less that is said of that Legislature kindergarten the better. Had the Ministers time for study, and investigation, the importance of the matter would have been pressed upon them.

The Japanese muddle involves the same points. Its history is yet to be written. The immigration matter, so vitally important in every way, is turned over by the Legislature to a Commission, and its hands are tied up. Yet it is always before the Cabinet, and demands of it a policy. A deal of "thinking" is to be done in this affair. The vital matter of annexation demanded, several years ago, certain work by the Government, in order to anticipate the comment made in the States; "the people are ignorant about the Islands," a comment repeated to us, by every mail. The work remains undone, and it is left to Mr. Thurston to scatter leaflets, just as the battle is on. We concede frankly, that it is a question whether or not, the Government should take any active part, so far as the propagandist in the States is concerned.

The Government has admirably, honestly, and intelligently done its administrative work, under the circumstances. It has done great service in the perilous days of political change. It is entitled to the gratitude, the loyalty, the firm support of the people. But the very excellence of its municipal administration, has, we believe, prevented it from making that close and necessary study of larger questions, so urgently needed in a transition condition. You cannot play chess when you are walking over eggs.

A great dry goods house, with the best reputation suddenly failed, in one of the American cities, some years ago. "What is the matter?" asked one man. "The man who did the thinking for it and nothing else, died two years ago," said a merchant neighbor, "and the men who run it now are only selling goods." Corporations, nations, and individual concerns, are conducted on the same principles. Go into John Wanamaker's great store and you will not find him touching a detail. His "thinking" is very successful.

IRREPRESSIBLE MOLASSES.

An article on the spontaneous combustion of molasses by Prof. J. I. Crawley of this city was published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society on July 4th, and attracts much attention in the

scientific journals of the United States and other countries.

The fact that there is such combustion is admitted, but the cause is unknown. Prof. Crawley takes the fact that great heat exists in the molasses, under certain conditions, and by a series of admirable chemical tests tries to arrive at the solution of the mystery. He says, regarding his experiments, "whatever may be the initial cause of the heat, whether fermentation or decomposition due to treatment, there can be no doubt that there was a violent manifestation of heat most destructive in its effects."

Mr. Whitney, in the Planters' Monthly for August, repeats the story, published years ago, which we print elsewhere, that at Ulu-palukua, Maui, molasses escaping from the sugar mill, gradually accumulated in the crevices of the rocks. It finally burst out in flames, and the natives believed that Haleakala had again resumed business at the old stand. This was, probably, a case of spontaneous combustion.

Here is a new field for geological and scientific work. The pre-historic man, millions of years ago, may have cultivated sugar cane in these Islands, and the waste molasses may have been the material which was ejected from the caverns below and built up the sun-lit Islands. The recent lava flows have a decided similarity to molasses candy after it has cooled off and becomes black, through atmospheric action. As the "carboniferous age" was omitted, through some mistake, in the construction of this group, it is possible that it was intended that the molasses age should take its place. Many able geologists present conflicting theories regarding the origin of volcanic action. They have looked for remote causes, as theorists usually do. The true cause may be right before them. We have the right to reason backwards from the valuable data of the Maui combustion. At the same time, it must be admitted that the taste of molten lava in Halemanu, is rather more sulphury than saccharine. Have any of our scientists tasted it? This fact would seem to be fatal to our theory. But Nature does as she pleases, and boxes the ears of impertinent Phenomena and Laws when they are in her way. Scientists are too confident of their final conclusions. This new and startling theory of Spontaneous Combustion teaches them not to shut the door of knowledge with a bang.

Should this startling theory provoke discussion, we trust that our scientists will avoid the use of abusive language, which usually mars such controversies. On the eve of annexation, we should give the world an example of courteous debate. We can let loose on each other when some moral question arises.

The testimony of all successful men of business is the same. Industry, temperance, a strict adherence to duty and a willingness to "help out" if necessary after the whistle blows or the bell rings in the evening will bring position and probably fortune. The Golden Rule, along with thrift, industry and temperance, is an unbeaten combination.

It's a Far Cry

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